SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will he refer it to the Ministry of Mines and tell them that this is happening?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I will certainly send all the papers I have to the Ministry of Mines for appropriate action under the mining laws. But where the Forest (Conservation) Act is concerned, should there be a violation, this team will go there and as soon as I have the report, appropriate action will be taken, including prosecution as provided in the Forest (Conservation) Act.

Increase in Emoluments of Engineering Staff of AIR and DD

2. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently there has been a raise, apart from what the Central Government announced for its employees, in the emoluments of the engineering staff working the AIR and Doordarshan;

(b) whether Government have received any representation about the inadequacy of the raise given to the engineering staff, if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether any other category of staff of the AIR and Doordarshan has made a demand for the raise in their emoluments, as given to the engineering staff, if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir. The pay scales of Engineering Assitants (EA) working in AIR/DD have been enhanced to Rs. 2000—3200 consequent upon the judgement delivered by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. However, all the Senior Engineering Assitants (SEAs) who were in the post of EA as on or after 01.01.1978, have also been allowed the benefit of the higher pay scale of EA, as personal to them on provisional basis.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Other cadres in AIR/DD have voiced their demands for similar increase in their pay scales.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, my question relates to the problem of employees in the Production wing of Doordarshan and AIR. Now there are two wings—Production wing and Engineering wing. Till now they were enjoying the same emoluments and positions. *..(Interruptions)*..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Silence, please.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Now, suddeenly, by virtue of the order of the Supreme Court referred to in the answer by the hon. Minister, the position has been totally altered. Colleagues who were getting the same salary in the same position—the employees in the Production wing—have become something like 'b' class employees. Therefore, I want to ask of the Minister whether he will be good enought to consider the request made by the employees in the Production Wing of Doordarshan and All India Radio to give the same emoluments and other benefits as are being given to the engineering staff. Thereby, the parity which was existing all along and which has now been disturbed, could be maintained. In this situation, there cannot be a proper, coordinated working. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to consider favourably this request made by the production staff to give the same benefit to them as the engineering staff are getting.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Sir, I want to respond to this by saying that I will certainly consider it favourably if it is within my ambit. This episode has not happened suddenly. There was a Madras CAT judgment. Not only the Ministry of I&B but other Ministries of the Government of India, that is, the Finance Ministry and the Department of Personnel and

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

Training, all had been dragged to the Supreme Court. After all that, suddenly we have this situation which has been described by the hon. Member. This is a fact.

Parallel to this, in 1982, some ex-servicemen of the armed forces also, in a common cause, joined hands with some civilians. As a result of the court judgement, they started getting Rs. 15/- to Rs. 25/- less. This anomly has crept in. This is what the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the Finance Ministry and the Department have been saying, but we have to abide by the court decision. We have taken the adivce of the law Ministry and the Department of Personnel. There is no way we can avoid taking a decision or avoid implementing the decision of the Supreme Court which has made the 1980 Madras CAT judgment obsolete.

Even if the Information Ministry wants to consider it favourably, with the Fifth Pay Commission looking into all aspects, our hands are tied. We would like our personnel, whether they are in the News Section or in the Production Wing or in the Engineering Wing, to get their rightful due. We have brought to their notice that if this particular decision is taken, it will upset the entire hierarchy not only of engineers and other categories but also the personnel in sister Ministries, apart from the I&B Ministry. But, we have to abide by the Court decision.

What has happened is that they got less as a result of this judgment. That means, those who are in a higher grade or a higher position, as a result of this, have become junior to their juniors. They got a lesser amount than their juniors who got a higher amount as a result of this Court case as well as the Fourth Pay Commission recommendations. So, we have protected their pay. As I have said, we have allowed the benefit of the higher pay-scale of engineers as personal pay to them. So, no one will get less than what he was getting. But, we are not in position to give them higher than what they are getting because it means that the entire gamut right, up to the Engineer-in-Chief and also some below him is involved.

Sir, at the moment also, the transmission executives have gone to the CAT, Patna. Therefore, it is being deliberated by the CAT, and it would be difficult for me to make any commitmnent here, but I would be grateful for the views of the hon. Members on this.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: I would like to invite the hon. Minister to the affidavit filed by the Government of India in the Writ Petition No. 1239 of 1979 in the Supreme Court, wherein the Government of India has already committed itself to the position that if there would be any enhancement in the emoluments of one section, the benefit would go to other sections also. In the light of this comment contained in the Affidavit filed before the Supreme Court, will the Minister be considering the request for a favourable action to implment the promise given to the Supreme Court?

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: We shall certainly examine it, Sir, but, as I said, in the light of the Pay Commission deliberating it, I do not know how much flexibility of action is available with the Ministry of I & B. If there is any flexibility, we would like to give better emoluments to all our employees.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Before the Pay Commission gives its recommendations, can't the Government make its position clear?

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Sir, we would like to keep our commitment with the Fifth Pay Commission. And as a result of the Court judgment our hands are tiet. We cannot give any increase while the Pay Commission gives its recommendations. It is within the ambit of the Fifth Pay Commission.

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने जो ब्यान दिया है स्थिति ठीक उसके उलट है। हकीकत यह है कि यद्यपि माननीय मंत्री

महोदय इस बात से सहमत हैं सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्णय के बाद में, कैट के निर्णय के बाद में मंत्री महोदय ने इनको आश्वासन दिया प्रोग्राम स्टाफ को कि उनका प्रोमोशन किया जाएगा, लेकिन इनका मंत्रालय, इनके सेक्रेटेरिएट ने कैट के सामने जो एफेडेविट दिया उसमें यह कहा गया है कि इनका प्रोमोशन नहीं किया जा सकता। यह मैं उनका एफीडेविट अगर पढ़ कर सुना दूं तो इस एफीडेविट में कहा गया है कि,

> "It is not possible to promote the Announcers to the post of Programme Executive."

उनका मंत्रालय यह लगातार कर रहा है, जबकि मंत्री महोदय दूसरी तरफ लगातार उनको वायदा कर रहे हैं कि आपका प्रोमोशन किया जाएगा। सभापति जी, बात यह है कि हमारी सरकार लगातार अन्तर्विरोधों में घिरी हुई है। हमारा सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय एक ओर तो हार्डवेयर में लगातार हम आगे बढ़ते जा रहे हैं, सैटेलाइट ट्रांसपोंडर खरीदते जा रहे हैं, इनके सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के काराजों में यह उल्लेख किया गया है कि "नो मैसेज, नो मशीन", लेकिन हम क्या देख रहे हैं कि "नो मैसेज, बड मशीन इज़ देअर"। यह हमारा सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय कर रहा है। सभापति जी, मैं यह जानना चाहती हूं कि आखिर क्या कारण है कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने 1982 में एक निर्णय दिया कि यह जो प्रोग्राम स्टॉफ है इनको रेगुलर एंप्लोयी के रूप में दर्जा दिया जाना चाहिए। उस निर्णय के बाद में आकाशवाणी के डाइरेक्टर जनरल ने एक आदेश जारी किया कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट के इस निर्णय के अनुरूप रुल्ज़ एंड रेगुलेशंस फार्म किए जाने चाहिएं। 1991 में रेडियो के डाइरेक्टर जनरल ने यह आदेश दिया 1991 के बाद 1995 हो गया लेकिन आज तक नियम और कानून क्यों नहीं बनाए गए और आज इसके चलते सभापति जी, हालत यह है कि ...(व्यवधान)

MR. CHARIMAN: Please conclude.

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी: इसलिए मैं जानना चाहती हूं कि क्या कारण जब रेडियो के डाइरेक्टर जनरल ने यह आदेश दिया, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने आदेश दिया, कैट ने यह आदेश दिया और अब हमारे मंत्री महोदय कह रहे हैं कि पे-स्केल नहीं कह रहे हैं, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं मंत्री महोदय से कि आपका मंत्रालय इस बारे में आपकी स्पष्ट राय क्यों नहीं देता? क्या कारण है रूल्ज़ एंड रेगुलेशंस फॉर्म नहीं किए जा रहे हैं और इसमें क्यों से यह चल रहा है ...(व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Please conclude.

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी: लगातार ऐसा क्यों किया जा रहा है?

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Sir, starting off from Engineers, then to Programme Executives, now we are coming to, announcers. There are three different aspects. As far as the Announcers are concerned, many hon. Members of this House as well as of the Lok Sabha came and met me. Announcers also came and met me. Various Officers also met me. Amongst their various demands some of them could be taken up by us because they did not affect the Fifth Pay Commission. Some had to go to the Government, to the Cabinet. Because it was a question of a proper policy, we have already gone to the Cabinet. This is something which the I & B Ministry alone cannot take up. But, what the hon. Member said was correct, that we have been wanting to improve their conditions. Therefore, in August 1993, because the Pay Commission was already functioning and it was not possible to give any financial emoluments or increase in the pay and allowances, we undertook as innovative thing of restructuring by upgrading certain posts and abolishing certain lower posts. This elaborate thing took about eight months. The Staff Associations and Unions were very cooperative. It went to the Cabinet. The Cabinet has accepted it. Within a week the CAT judgment came nullifying all the efforts, the hard work, that have gone into it for the last $1\frac{1}{2}$ years. Now, Sir, we are in a Catch-22 situation. We cannot increase their salaries, although we should like to increase because of the Pay Commission's directions. So, we have protected the pay of the employees who would have thought to be getting lesser that what they were getting before the CAT judgment. But there is no way we can give them a higher emolument, at the moment, because of the limiting factors of the Pay Commission and directions given by the Finance Ministry to all the Ministries.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my supplementary question relates to part (c) of the question. There is a category of staff in the All India Radio, known as Akash Vani Announcers. They have been representing to the Ministry about upgradation of their salaries and wages. My information is that their representative has also called on the Minister. I would like to know from the Minister at what stage the matter is pending and by what time the Government is likely to take a decision.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member is very much aware of this matter. He was one of the hon. Members who drew my attention to the upgradation of salaries and wages of the Akash Vani Announcers. As I said earlier, the entire matter has gone to the Cabinet and we are expecting that the Cabinet would deliberate on it soon.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the Question Hour is over. Now, we will take up Papers to be laid on the Table.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): What about lunch hour?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, today there is no lunch hour.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: We have not decided to dispense with lunch hour. We need lunch hour so that we can come back to the right mood to be in the House. Sir, I think we must go for lunch.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They have some business to discuss. ...(*Interruptions*)... Let the Papers be laid on the Table.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: Yes, Sir. After that.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Assistance to Bihar for setting up Food Processing Industries

*283. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided financial assistance under Plan Development Schemes to Food Processing Industries Sector in the State of Bihar;

(b) if so, what are the year-wise details thereof for the last three years; and

(c) what other incentives Government propose to give to the entrepreneurs for setting up food processing industries in Bihar with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The detail of the financial assistance extended under the Plan Schemes of the Ministry for the years 1992-93, 1993-94 & 1994-95 in respect of the proposals from Bihar are Rs. 9.00 lakhs, Rs. 46.13 lakhs & Rs. 42.86 lakhs respectively.

(c) Various incentives like fiscal concessions and export incentives are available for setting up food processing industries in Bihar.

Bids for Cellular Phone Service

*284. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:
SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dates extended for submission of bids for Cellular and basic telecom services are over;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of tenders received from Indian and foreign companies alongwith the names of the companies;

(d) the terms and conditions specified for giving licences;

(e) the names of companies to whom licences have been issued so far alongwith the areas allotted to them for providing Cellular and basic services in the country;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and